

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

**Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to a spacer at connecting devices which are adapted to connect discharge devices to packages with liquid products, preferably foodstuff products, for discharging said products from the packages, wherein the packages have walls of synthetic material. ~~The connecting device is adapted to permit products to flow therethrough from the package to the discharge device. The connecting device comprises a tube member which is provided on a first wall portion of the walls of the package and it also comprises a connecting means which can be fixed to the tube member. The spacer is provided on the connecting means and is adapted to be located in the package in order to, during emptying of said package, keep wall portions thereof at a distance from the connecting device such that said wall portions do not prevent or substantially obstruct emptying of the package.~~

Please add the following new paragraph on page 1 after the first full paragraph on page 1 as follows:

**Background of the Invention**

The connecting device is adapted to permit products to flow therethrough from the package to the discharge device. The connecting device comprises a tube member which is provided on a first wall portion of the walls of the package and it also comprises a connecting means which can be fixed to the tube member. The spacer is provided on the connecting means and is adapted to be located in the package in order to, during emptying of said package, keep wall portions thereof at a distance from the connecting device such that said wall portions do not prevent or substantially obstruct emptying of the package.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

**Summary of the Invention**

The object of the present invention is to eliminate the abovementioned problems and this is arrived at according to the invention by the provision of the characterizing features of primarily subsequent claim 1.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 7, with the following amended paragraph:

**Brief Description of the Drawings**

The invention will be further described below with reference to the accompanying drawings, in ~~which~~ which:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

**Description of Example Embodiments**

The connecting devices 1 illustrated in the drawings are adapted for connection of discharge devices 2 to packages 3 with liquid products 4, e.g. foodstuff products, for discharging said products 4 from the packages 3.